



- The clearest evidence of wisdom within us is found in **words** that come from us.

From a wise mind comes wise speech... Proverbs 16:23

Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit—you choose. Proverbs 18:21

27 A truly wise person uses few words; .... 28 Even fools are thought wise when they keep silent; with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent. Proverbs 17:27-28

12 When someone insults his neighbor, it shows that he is foolish. But a wise person stays quiet. Proverbs 11:12  
Before I even speak a word, you know what I will say. Psalm 139:4 (CEV)

My dear friends, with our tongues we speak both praises and curses. We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right. Can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? Does fresh water come from a well full of salt water? James 3:9-12 (CEV)

- How we use our words **matters** to God.

...with our tongues we speak both praises and curses....this isn't right. James 3:9a

- We speak of God's greatness in how we speak of His **creation**.

We praise our Lord and Father, and we curse people who were created to be like God, and this isn't right. James 3:10

- Our words reveal **who** we are.

Can clean water and dirty water both flow from the same spring? Can a fig tree produce olives or a grapevine produce figs? Does fresh water come from a well full of salt water? James 3:11-12

#### If we want our words to reflect Wisdom:

- We need to deal with the **source** of our words.

For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. Matthew 12:34 (NLT)

The condition of our **heart** defines what we say and how we say it.

45 Good people do good things because of the good in their hearts, but bad people do bad things because of the evil in their hearts. Your words show what is in your heart. Luke 6:45

Our **heart** shapes our words and then our words shape our **lives**.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

The real problem isn't our **tongue**, it's our **heart**.

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. James 3:7-8 (NIV)

#### How we change our words:

- I allow God to **change my heart**.

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Psalm 51:10 (TLB)

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD... Psalm 19:14 (NLT)

- Put a **filter** on what I allow into my heart.

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23

- I can allow life to fill my **heart** so life can fill my **words**.

17 But the wisdom that comes from above leads us to be pure, friendly, gentle, sensible, kind, helpful, genuine, and sincere. James 3:17

#### Wise words are:

- Words that reflect the **heart** of the **Father**.

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life... Proverbs 10:11

11 A wise word that you speak at the right time is a beautiful thing. It is like a gold apple on a silver plate. Proverbs 25:11

- Words of **grace**.

Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Ephesians 4:29

- Words of **healing**.

Kind words heal and help; cutting words wound and maim. Proverbs 15:4 (MSG)

The words of the wise bring healing. Proverbs 12:18

Lord, help me control my tongue; help me be careful about what I say. Psalm 141:3



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

### Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- What do your words usually reveal about what is happening in your heart?
- Why do you think Proverbs connects wisdom so strongly to the way we speak?
- When is it hardest for you to control your words?
- Have someone's words ever brought healing or life to you? What happened?
- According to James 3, why is the tongue so dangerous?
- What kinds of things can "fill our hearts" and eventually affect our speech?
- What does it practically look like to "guard your heart" each day?
- Why do you think silence is sometimes a sign of wisdom?
- Which type of wise words do you need to grow in most right now: words of grace, words of healing, or words that reflect the Father's heart?
- How can our words become "a fountain of life" to the people around us?

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